

The process employed to develop this master plan was comprised of data collection and analyses, plan development, and plan review and adoption.

DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSES

Considerable information gathering occurred including the following items:

- Utilized the Geographic Information System (G.I.S.) developed by the City's Planning and Development Department to include:
 - Delineation of 88 Super Neighborhoods and 9 Council Districts
 - Existing land uses throughout the City, namely, single family and multi-family residential
 - Existing City park locations
- Reviewed various planning documents including:
 - Reports of the *Imagine Houston* program, a city-wide planning and community visioning process completed in 1997 with extensive volunteer participation
 - City of Houston Comprehensive Bikeway Plan (1993)
 - City of Houston Major Thoroughfare and Freeway Plan (1997-1999)
 - Comprehensive Master Plan for Renewing Hermann Park (1995)
 - Buffalo Bayou Master Plan (1986) and Buffalo Bayou East Sector Redevelopment Plan (1992)
 - Houston Environmental Foresight Panel – 1995 Assessment, Report of the Socioeconomic Subpanel
 - Texas Outdoor Recreation Plan (1990)
 - Recovery Action Program prepared for City's Parks and Recreation Department, March, 1992, in accordance with the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program, National Park Service
 - Report of the Green Ribbon Committee (1983)
- Reviewed reference materials prepared by the following organizations:
 - National Recreation and Park Association
 - Trust for Public Land
 - University of Houston Center for Public Policy
 - Urban Land Institute
- Researched city-wide demographic data that addresses:
 - Current and past population estimates
 - Socio-economic make-up
 - Elementary school enrollment figures, past and present
 - Population projections
- Identified existing public, semi-public and private parks and recreational facilities throughout the area with the assistance of aerial photography, property tax maps, and site verification visits.

- Received public input through the following means:
 - Citywide distribution of a survey which was also posted on the City's website. (Survey results and a sample copy of the survey can be found in Appendix D.)
 - Community meeting records held as part of the *Parks to Standard Program*
 - Ongoing neighborhood planning efforts between individual homeowner associations and the City's Planning and Development Department
 - Public hearing comments received in 1999 regarding revision of the City's *Subdivisions Development and Platting Ordinance*
 - Consultations with the following organizations:
 - Houston Parks Board
 - The Park People
 - Trees for Houston
 - Buffalo Bayou Partnership
 - Bayou Preservation League
- Investigated park and recreation issues within Texas' other major cities (Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth and San Antonio) on topics including:
 - Park planning and development
 - Recreation facilities and programming
 - Maintenance operations

PLAN DEVELOPMENT

The Plan Development Phase included the following steps:

- 1) Established goals and objectives that address:
 - The park system
 - Park system planning and development
 - Recreational facilities
 - Park maintenance
- 2) Prepared park standards to include:
 - Park classification system
 - Park development guidelines
 - Transition guidelines for existing parks
 - Facility standards
- 3) Assessed needs for parkland and for park and recreation facilities by using:
 - Standard-based criteria including those set forth by the National Recreation and Park Association, the Urban Land Institute and the Texas Outdoor Recreation Plan
 - Demand-based information derived from citizen input and local planning documents
- 4) Identified significant natural resources and other resource-based opportunities for inclusion in the park system

- 5) Recommended specific needs city-wide in the following categories:
 - Land acquisition
 - Park development
 - Recreational facilities
 - Park maintenance facilities
- 6) Estimated costs for land acquisitions and facility development
- 7) Prepared guidelines and other criteria to implement, prioritize and finance needs.

PLAN REVIEW AND ADOPTION

This third and final phase included the following steps:

- 1) Presented the plan to the general public and held public meetings (June – August, 1999) for citizen review in all Council Districts
- 2) Submitted the Plan to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) staff for their review and comment
- 3) Presented the Plan to the Houston Parks Board for their review, discussion and approval
- 4) Submitted the Plan to the Mayor and City Council for their review and official adoption
- 5) Resubmitted the Plan to TPWD for their final approval.